NEW LITERARIA-
An International Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities
Volume 8, No. 1, 2026
ISSN: 2582-7375
www.newliteraria.com

Eco-Archives Across Cultures: Comparative Study of Global Indigenous Narratives

Ms. Meghna Varun
Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS)
&
Dr. Madhu Sharma
Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS)

Abstract

Indigenous repository of knowledge is dense, layered, and multigenerational embodying spiritual, ecological, medicinal, and cultural wisdom accumulated for centuries with observation and interaction with the environment. The knowledge carried by indigenous communities in their narratives strengthens the link between ecology and mankind. Folklore serves as the primary mode of transmission of indigenous knowledge; the collective wisdom and lifestyles of tribal communities is conveyed orally in the form of myths, rituals, folktales, etc. from one generation to other.

Inspired by the tales of Mawphlang Sacred Forests of Khasi Tribes, Apatani tribe's agricultural system and Bhil tribe's unique water conservation practices, the research paper aims to situate Indian folklore within a comparative global frame. Parallels with other indigenous communities globally uncover philosophies that emphasise sustainability, reciprocity, and ecological kinship. Through this comparative study of diverse narratives, the paper intends to highlight the similarities between various indigenous communities' ecological values and sustainability practices.

By employing comparative literary and cultural analysis combined with ecocritical thought, archive and counter-archive theory the study asks: How do these narratives contest anthropocentric exploitation of nature? Through the medium of this study, the paper aims to understand whether these folkloric archives can be used in the contemporary world as a manual for a sustainable future. And, how can the discourse about ecological folklore can be integrated into education and climate activism to create awareness and inspire activism.

Keywords: Indigenous, Folklore, Ecology, Environmental Conservation, Sustainability.